

Remarks

I. Status and Nature of the Amendments

Claims 1-46 are pending. Claims 16-46 have been withdrawn as directed to non-elected inventions.

II. The Requirement for Restriction of the Claims

The Examiner has advised Applicant that the present application is directed to five separate and distinct inventions:

- Group I: Claims 1-15, drawn to a method of producing a folded extramembranous receptor domain, a composition comprising a chemically synthesized extramembranous receptor domain and a kit comprising said composition.
- Group II: Claims 16-23, drawn to a composition comprising an extramembranous receptor domain free of a membrane spanning transmembrane domain.
- Group III: Claims 24-35, drawn to a method of assaying an extramembranous receptor domain for ligand-induced dimerization.
- Group IV: Claims 36-40, drawn to a method of detecting a binding ligand to an extramembranous receptor domain comprising an unnatural amino acid having a detectable moiety.
- Group V: Claims 41-46, drawn to a method of detecting a binding of a ligand to an extramembranous receptor domain by assaying for change in a property of a detectable moiety.

The Examiner has accordingly advised that restriction of the claims is appropriate.

Applicant herewith responds to the Restriction requirement by electing to prosecute in this application **Invention I** (claims 1-15). Claims directed to the non-elected inventions have been withdrawn. Applicant's election is made with traverse. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider rejoining the withdrawn claims to the application in the event that Allowable subject matter is found with respect to the elected invention.

The Examiner has advised that Applicants must elect a species from amongst those recited in claim 7:

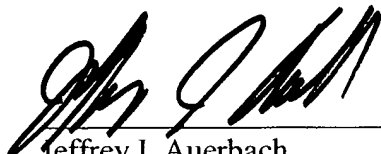
native chemical ligation	thioether-forming ligation
oxime-forming ligation	hydrazone-forming ligation
thioester-forming ligation	thiazolidine-forming ligation
oxazolidine-forming ligation	

Applicants herewith respond by electing the species **native chemical ligation**. Claims 1-6, 7 (native chemical ligation), 8-15 are readable upon this election.

Having now responded to all of the Examiner's Objections, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for Examination, and earnestly solicit early notice of favorable action. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned with respect to any issues regarding this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 12/16/2005
Berenato, White & Stavish, LLC
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240
Bethesda, MD 20817
Tel: (301) 896-0600 / Fax: (301) 896-0607


Jeffrey I. Auerbach
Reg. No. 32,680
Attorney for Assignee